



In re Application of:

Joseph C. CAUTHEN

Application No.: 10/085,040

Filed: March 1, 2002

For: INTERVERTEBRAL DISC
ANNULUS STENT

Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the calculation of fees and examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title to read "Spinal Disc Annulus Repair Device."

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-44 without prejudice.

Please add claims 45-84 as follows:

49 ~~48~~. An implantable device for therapeutically or prophylactically treating the annulus of a patient's intervertebral disc, the annulus having an aperture having an aperture dimension along a selected axis, said device comprising a body having